

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-51. (Cancelled).

52. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor device, comprising:

a longitudinal axis;

a distal ring;

a proximal ~~ring~~ assembly including ~~an inner ring~~ a first member having a radially inner portion and a radially outer portion, and an outer ring a second member having a radially inner portion and a radially outer portion; and

a wound retracting sleeve extending at least between the distal ring and the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly, ~~the sleeve being~~ and slidably received ~~about a portion of the proximal ring assembly~~ between the radially outer portion of the first member and the radially inner portion of the second member.

53. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the sleeve is a generally cylindrical sleeve.

54. (Canceled).

55. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a securing portion configured to fix the sleeve at a desired axial length between the distal ring and the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly.

56. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 55, wherein the securing portion includes formations on the ~~outer ring~~ second member configured to receive a portion of the sleeve.

57. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein at least a portion of the inner ring first member is located within a recess of the ~~outer ring~~ second member.

58. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the ~~outer ring~~ second member comprises a plurality of interconnected segments which are independently movable to facilitate localized release of the sleeve.

59. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 58, wherein the segments are manually manipulable between a clamped rest position and a release position.

60. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the distal ring is of resilient material.

61. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the distal ring is an O-ring.

62. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein at least a portion of the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly includes a material with a low coefficient of friction.

63. (Previously Presented) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 62, said material with a low coefficient of friction is polytetrafluoroethylene.

64. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a ~~hand access~~ sealing device coupled to the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly so as to allow the ~~device~~ wound retractor to be used in laparoscopic surgery.

65. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 64, wherein the sealing device includes a hand access device that extends across a central opening provided by the retractor.

66. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a capping device coupled to the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly, the capping device extending across a central opening provided by the retractor.

67. (Currently Amended) A method for retracting an incision, comprising:

making an incision in a patient;

providing a wound retractor comprising a central longitudinal axis, a distal ring, a proximal ~~ring~~ assembly having ~~an inner ring~~ first member and ~~an outer ring~~ a second member, and a sleeve extending at least between the distal ring and the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly, ~~the sleeve being slidably received about a portion of the proximal ring assembly~~ and longitudinally between the first member and the second member;

inserting the distal ring through the incision such that the sleeve extends through the incision and the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly is located outside of the incision; and

~~sliding~~ pulling a portion of the sleeve ~~relative to~~ through the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly to shorten an axial length of the sleeve located between the distal ring and the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently Amended) A method for retracting an incision of claim 67, further comprising securing the sleeve at a desired axial length between the distal ring and proximal ~~ring~~ assembly.

70. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for retracting an incision of claim 69, wherein the securing of the sleeve at a desired axial length includes

securing the sleeve to formations formed on the ~~outer ring~~ second member of the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly.

71. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for retracting an incision of claim 67, further including attaching a ~~medical~~ sealing device to the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly.

72. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for retracting an incision of claim 71, ~~wherein attaching of a medical device to the proximal ring assembly includes~~ 67, further including attaching one of a hand access device, trocar, internal organ retractor, or illumination means to the proximal assembly.

73. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method for retracting an incision of claim 71, wherein attaching of a ~~medical~~ sealing device to the proximal ~~ring~~ assembly includes attaching a hand access device across a central opening provided by the retractor.

74. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the first member includes a ring having a circular cross-section.

75. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 74, wherein the second member includes a ring shape.

76. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the radially outer portion of the first member is curved.

77. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, wherein the sleeve is fixed to the distal ring.

78. (Withdrawn) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 52, further including a clamp to assist in securing the sleeve to the proximal assembly.

79. (New) A wound retractor device, comprising:

a longitudinal axis;

a distal ring;

a proximal assembly including a first member having a radially outer portion, and a second member having a radially inner portion, the radially outer portion of the first member being located at least partially within a recess in the radially inner portion; and

a generally cylindrical wound retracting sleeve extending at least between the distal ring and the proximal assembly, through the proximal assembly between the radially outer portion of the first member and the radially inner portion of the second member, and proximally beyond the proximal assembly, a portion of the sleeve extending proximally beyond the proximal assembly forming a gripping portion for pulling the sleeve to shorten an axial length of the sleeve located between the distal ring and the proximal assembly.

80. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 79, wherein the distal ring is of resilient material.

81. (New) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 79, wherein at least a portion of the proximal assembly includes polytetrafluoroethylene.

82. (Withdrawn) A wound retractor as claimed in claim 79, further including a sealing device coupled to the proximal assembly so as to allow the wound retractor to be used in laparoscopic surgery.

83. (Withdrawn) The wound retractor as claimed in claim 82, wherein the sealing device is coupled to the proximal assembly via a snap-type engagement.